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August 1964

Number 8

FIELD TRIPS FOR AUGUST

Saturday, August 8, to Aden's Resort, at the confluence of the San Joaquin and Stanislaus Rivers, to see the cuckoo which is a late arrival. From Tracy, take U.S. Highway 50 two miles eastward, turn right onto State Highway 33 and go southward six miles to the Texaco station at Airport Way and go $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles to San Joaquin River. Continue on for 1.3 miles to Division Road which has first Aden's directional sign. Follow these signs 2.2 miles to resort.

Camping, cabins and meals are available. For cabin reservations write Aden's Resort, Route 2, Box 223, Manteca, Calif. or phone 209 Talbot 3-4822 (Manteca). Driving time from Bay Area points, 2 hours. The Cuckoos are most active between 6 and 7:15 a.m. Meet in the parking area by the snack bar at 6 a.m. Breakfast will be served in the restaurant at 8 a.m. Because these are timid birds and elusive, do not try to stalk them or they escape. Please stay with the group quietly and calmly and wait for the birds to appear. They were observed by this leader on five weekends last summer.

Sunday, August 9, to Aden Resort for a repeat performance of Saturday's trip. Same hours. Leader, Oliver I. Allen, 948-5639.

Sunday, August 16, to Rodeo Lagoon in Marin County for the fall migration of water birds. This area, with its brackish lagoons separated from ocean by a sand bar, is a haven for many birds passing through. Those who like to walk the $2\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the entrance to Fort Barry and Fort Cronkite to the ocean, may see such species as the Allen's hummingbird, several species of swallows, hawks, towhees, sparrows and warblers. Meet at the parking area just north of the Golden Gate Bridge at 9 a.m. Leader, to be announced.

On Saturday and Sunday, August 29 and 30, to Moss Landing and Monterey overnight. On Saturday take U.S. 101 south to the Monterey Peninsula cutoff (Route 156) 9 miles north of Salinas. Turn west to Castroville, then north (right) on Route 1 for 3 miles. Meet at 9 a.m. near the bridge over Elkhorn Slough. Distance from the Bay Area is 110 miles. Driving time is 3 hours. This spot offers beach, ocean, lagoon, pond, marsh and open grassland habitat all in one package. At this time migration of loon, grebe, albatross, fulmar, shearwater and petrel takes place. After lunch go to the Coast Guard pier in Monterey where we will assemble at

2 p.m. A tour will be made of the wharves, where may be seen kittiwake, oyster-catcher, petrel and turnstone. A side trip to the mouth of the Carmel River for Baird's and possibly Pectoral sandpiper will be made at the close of the day.

On Sunday, at 9 a.m. depart from Sam's Wharf on a party boat for a trip off Monterey coast. Allow one-half hour for parking car at Municipal Parking Lot, traveling to Sam's Wharf and boarding boat. Return will be at 3 p.m. Be sure to wear warm clothing, bring lunch, and seasick pills. This trip will be at the time of heavy migration of ocean birds that travel on a route fairly close to the Monterey area. Black-footed albatross, sooty and pink-footed shearwater, fork-tailed, black and ashy petrel were present last year. Fare: \$4.50 per person. Make check payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society, Inc. and send to Harold G. Peterson, 3548 - 65th Ave., Oakland, Calif. 94605. Space is limited. Names will be placed on passenger list in order received. Leaders, to be announced.

— HAROLD G. PETERSON, *Field Trips Chairman*

NEXT MEETING IN SEPTEMBER

The Golden Gate Audubon Society will not hold a meeting in August. The next regular meeting will be on Thursday, September 10, in San Francisco, and will be conducted by our new President — A. Warren Larson. Our other new officers are: Director, Miss Erline Hevel; Vice President, Robert C. DaCosta; Recording Secretary, Miss Patricia Triggs, and Program Chairman, Thomas Williamson. Details about the meeting will appear in the September *Gull*.

AUDUBON WILDLIFE FILMS FOR 1964-65

Five outstanding wildlife photographers will show their new films in the Berkeley Little Theater from October through March. Following are the dates, titles, and photographers:

Monday, October 19 — "Ranch Life and Wildlife" by Albert J. Wool.

Wednesday, November 18 — "Wildlife of the Eastern Woodlands" by Earl J. Hilfiker.

Wednesday, January 27 — "Wilderness Trails" by Charles T. Hotchkiss.

Wednesday, February 24 — "New England Saga" by John D. Bulger.

Thursday, March 18 — "Delta of the Orinoco" by Robert C. Hermes.

The price for the entire series of personally narrated films will be \$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students under 18. Single admission will cost \$1.50. Season tickets may be reserved now by sending a check to Audubon Wildlife Films, P.O. Box 103, Berkeley, California, 94701 (payable to Golden Gate Audubon Society) and enclosing a stamped, self-addressed envelope. Mrs. Frances Ellen Fallgatter, Audubon Wildlife Film Chairman, will mail the season tickets in September.

FARALLON ISLAND TRIP, MAY 31

On Sunday, May 31, about 35 members and guests of the Golden Gate Audubon Society boarded Privateer II for a trip to the Farallons. The group found two black-footed albatrosses, one exceptionally pale-headed individual which landed and fed right around the boat, and another seen at a distance on the return. Shearwaters were not numerous: a single pink-

foot, two sooties, and two late fulmars were all that could be found. On the way back, two late Sabine's gulls crossed the bow with purposeful northerly flight.

The breeding birds on the main island were a spectacular sight. In addition to the ubiquitous Western gulls, eormorants, guillemots, and murres, as many as 14 tufted puffins were seen perched on the higher parts of the cliffs or flying in and out of rock stacks. A single black oystercatcher was observed in the cove on the east side. The waters on the inland side of the islands were alive with murres and eormorants; Cassin's auklets were abundant in the waters outward from the islands. The air was filled with the sounds of surf and wind, the screams of gulls, and the high thin chips of guillemots. Altogether it was an experience well worth the discomforts of a rough sea passage. — ROBERT O. PAXTON, *Leader and Historian*

SAN FRANCISCO BEACH TRIP, JUNE 13

The colony of nesting bank swallows on the San Francisco beach this year is near the parking area and is smaller than in the past. There was great activity when we were there, with the parent birds constantly going in and out of the holes, although, unlike other years, we didn't see any young. They evidently had not yet reached the stage where they could get up the two- or three-foot burrow to the entrance.

After leaving the bank swallows, we birded at Lake Merced, where we had good views of long-billed marsh wrens, song sparrows, a yellowthroat, rough-winged, cliff, and violet-green swallows, a loggerhead shrike, and a number of other species. We also enjoyed watching a long-tailed weasel, very handsome with his golden-brown coat and black-tipped tail.

In the afternoon we went to Golden Gate Park and saw a pair of pigmy nuthatches at their nesting hole, which Luis Baptista and Dennis Luz had found.

Before disbanding, we visited the screech owl in the fuchsia garden. The dead tree in which he had his hole for several years has been removed. He is now in a stump closer to the path, and I'm glad to report that the destruction of his former home has upset him not a whit. He seems, in fact, imperturbable. — AILEEN PIERSON, *Leader and Historian*

PROPOSITION 1 FOR STATE PARKS

Every week-end field trip reminds us that California has too little public shoreline and park lands for its more than 18 million people. Recognizing the problem, the State Legislature has declared:

"Land values are increasing at a steady rate and any delay by the State in securing lands for park and recreation purposes will result not only in the loss of suitable lands for recreation purposes, but also will reduce the economic ability of the State to acquire such lands."

With strong bipartisan support, the Legislature has passed a \$150 million parks and recreation bond financing act, which will be Proposition 1 on the November ballot. Proposition 1 will provide \$85 million for acquiring State Park lands, \$20 million for minimum development of

these State Park lands, \$5 million for Wildlife Conservation Board projects, and \$40 million for local park and recreation grants to enable cities, counties, special districts or regions to obtain and preserve open space. Such preservation of open space provides additional habitat for birds.

FOR THE CHILDREN — CONSERVATION TIPS

This time of year our forests and out-of-door areas in California are in great danger. You and I and others who camp and picnic in the lovely, shady places can bring about great destruction if we are not careful. There are many ways by which we have destroyed the out-of-doors.

First, of course, we have started forest fires. Many people who camp or even travel through our forests have not learned the simple rules for their protection. The first is that a fire is never safely out until you can put your hand down among the ashes. A fire should be sprinkled with water again and again. Careful sprinkling while the ashes are being turned over and over is the only safe way of putting it out. Dumping a bucket of water on the fire will often leave sparks because the water will run off the top and not get down to the embers below. It is also not safe to bury a fire under a few shovelfuls of dirt because the merest crack in the cover of soil and a few dry leaves or sticks will allow the sparks there to catch hold and so start a forest fire. Matches should always be broken in two before they are thrown away. You cannot break a match with a tip still hot or smouldering. A cigarette stub too must be broken up, the tobacco thrown out but the paper carried away in one's pocket to a garbage can.

Another way by which we destroy the countryside is by littering it. A good woodsman carries away papers, garbage, cans and jars which cannot be burned in his campfire. To bury a can with some food still sticking to it is an invitation to some wild animal to dig it up and to leave it strewn about. The careful camper leaves no mark of his having passed that way. He takes one last look at his camp-site or picnic grounds before he leaves to see that it is free of any objects that do not belong there.

A third way by which we harm our beautiful hillsides is by cutting across on the trail from one zig-zag to another, thus trampling a trail down which the winter rains can tear and carry with them the soil out of which our plants can grow.

People who watch carefully their actions when they are out in the country are called conservationists. Are you a Conservationist? I surely hope you are and what is more that you have made the people with whom you camped or picnicked good conservationists too.

Take good care of our state — California! — JANET NICKELSBURG,
Education Chairman

NEW MEMBERS

We welcome the following new members to our Society: from Albany, Mrs. Walten S. Hale; from Berkeley, Mrs. Evelyn R. Lyser; from El Cerrito, Mrs. L. B. Frantz; from Oakland, Mrs. William J. Voss; from San Francisco, Mr. Richard Bambach and Miss Dagmar Rieders. — MARJORIE N. WILSON, *Membership Chairman*

FIELD OBSERVATIONS

Frank Steffens reported to Aileen Pierson and Erline Hevel that he carefully observed a Harris' hawk near Planada, California, on June 2.

Harold G. Peterson found bald eagles, as well as black swifts, on the Mt. Lassen-Burney Falls field trip June 27 and 28.

EDITOR'S NOTE: We have greatly appreciated the excellent assistance of Mrs. Hermine Van Gelder, who has been the Assistant Editor since July 1963. Although Mrs. Van Gelder is retiring from *The Gull*, she has kindly volunteered to give us emergency help during vacation in August.

The deadline for the September *Gull* will be August 6.

SANCTUARY AND MEMORIAL GIFTS

In honor of Mrs. Junea W. Kelly, the Golden Gate Audubon Society presented a special gift to the Sanctuary Fund at the annual dinner June 11.

Boy Scout Troop #326 made a contribution to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Fund *in honor of* Dr. Albert Boles and in recognition of his many services to them.

The Berkeley Garden Club recently contributed to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Fund.

Dr. Albert Boles, Sanctuary and Memorial Fund Chairman, has received the following memorial gifts to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Fund:

In Memory of:

Herbert Scott Henderson
Herbert Scott Henderson
Percy Springett
Miss Mattie Groefsema
Mrs. Mame Simonsen
Mrs. Mame Simonsen
James L. Parsons
Mr. and Mrs. Gayle Grubb
John S. Brandis
Milton A. Coney
Miss Rachel Carson
Mrs. Nina Young
Mrs. Nina Young
Saydee Reiser

Gift of:

Jean and Tom McLarnon
Mr. and Mrs. N. C. Ortman, Jr.
Mrs. Rose Gasser
Miss Gladys V. Noble
Miss Gloria Copeland
Mr. and Mrs. Frank D. Norris
Mr. and Mrs. Harold E. Korf
Dr. and Mrs. George S. Johnson
Dr. and Mrs. Albert Boles
Mrs. Herbert S. Henderson
Mrs. E. Land
Mr. and Mrs. E. S. Gillette, Jr.
Mr. and Mrs. Hubert Fry
California Alpine Club

For the future of Audubon Canyon Ranch, we solicit bequests to the San Francisco Foundation, 351 California St., San Francisco, for addition to the Audubon Canyon Ranch Endowment Fund.



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AUGUST

GOLDEN GATE AUDUBON SOCIETY, INC.

Established January 25, 1917 A Branch of the National Audubon Society since 1948

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Sanctuary & Memorial Fund Chairman.....	Dr. Albert Boles.....	854 Longridge Rd., Oakland 10	GL 1-6267
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Conservation Chairman.....	Paul F. Covell.....	2860 Delaware St., Oakland 2	KE 6-4120
Canyon Ranch Film Distribution Chairman.....	Mrs. Bonnie Smith.....	555 Dewey Blvd., San Francisco	OV 1-7635
Canyon Ranch Fund Raising Chairman.....	Mrs. Myra Browne.....	482 Broadmoor, San Leandro	568-1921

Claims for missing numbers of THE GULL should be sent to the Editor. Changes of address should be sent to the Membership Chairman.

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m. Joint Membership, Local and National, \$8.50 per year, includes AUDUBON MAGAZINE and THE GULL. Subscription to THE GULL separately \$2.00 per year.

Visit the Conservation Center of the NATIONAL AUDUBON SOCIETY
2426 Bancroft Way, Berkeley, California 94701 TH 8-4042